Intimidation of people who default in paying dues

2877. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that certain credit card issuing banks send hired goons to intimidate people who default in paying dues;

(b) whether any complaints have been received to this effect; and

(c) what action would Government take to discipline such banks that take law unto themselves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that complaints have been received from credit card customers regarding recovery agents resorting to questionable methods to recover the dues. The credit card issuing banks have, however, denied such allegations.

(b) and (c) RBI have received some complaints from credit card holders against issuing banks alleging intimidation and harassment for recovery of dues. These have been taken up suitably with the banks concerned for redressal and appropriate remedial action.

Income-Tax raids on educational institutes

2878. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educational institutions subjected to Income-Tax raids in the last three months; and

(b) how much, unaccounted wealth has been detected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No search warrant u/s 132 of the Income Tax Act, 1961 was issued/executed against any educational institution during the last three months, *i.e.* 1.5.2005 to 31.7.2005. However, the premises of some of the educational institutions were surveyed u/s 133A of the Income Tax Act. Apart from that, some persons, allegedly connected with these educational institutions were searched.

(b) The Surveys/Search & Seizure operation is a tool of investigation. Under the Income Tax Act/Wealth Tax Act, investigation culminates into an assessment which then is a subject matter of appeal. The appeals often go up to High Court/Supreme Court. The unaccounted wealth can only be finally known when appeals, etc. are finalized.

SBI ATMs in Delhi

2879. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of State Bank of India branches in Delhi covered with ATM facility;

(b) whether the SBI branch at DDA, Vikas Sadan, INA Colony is having the ATM facility; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when, the said facility will be made available which may benefit a number of people visiting DDA office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) State Bank of India has reported that there are 205 ATMs in Delhi hosted by 141 ATM branches.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise

Committee to improve working of RRBs

†2880. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee has been constituted to look for measures to improve working and financial status of the Regional Rural Banks;

(b) whether there is any proposal to bring these banks under control of an apex bank and bring them under administrative and financial control of NABARD to make them village oriented;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.